

HINTS FOR HOMEOWNERS

Yard Care Expert Rounds Up Hot New Products To Get Your Lawn Geared Up

(NAPSA)—Now may be the perfect time to challenge your neighbors for “best yard on the block” honors. Lawn expert Lance Walheim has a few recommendations that will put you on the cutting edge.

Walheim, author of *Lawn Care For Dummies* and *Landscaping For Dummies*, has spent hours pushing, pulling and prodding dozens of the newest lawn-and-garden gadgets. To get you in shape for the gardening season, here are his top product picks.

Start Me Up

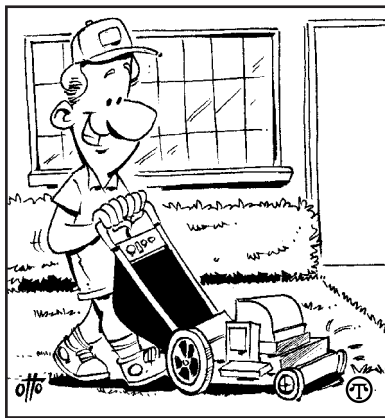
Those pesky, cold engine starts—having to pull the starter cord on your mower over and over—is Walheim’s most commonly heard complaint about lawnmowers.

Now, through an innovation from the folks at MTD Products and Briggs & Stratton, your first pull-start of the season could be your last. The Yard-Man Self-Starter series of mowers virtually eliminates the starting hassle. After the first pull-start, simply push a button and hold down the safety bail. The mower will restart up to 10,000 times without any additional effort.

“The Self-Starter is one of the biggest industry innovations since the introduction of gas-powered mowers,” Walheim said. “With the Self-Starter, everyone’s biggest problem is now solved in the first start of the season.”

Trim, Edge Or Prune In A Click

Engineers from Ryobi have taken the concept of the Swiss Army knife, added a little power and expanded it to cover the whole back yard. With the TrimmerPlus system, you can perform



dozens of chores by simply changing up to eight attachments, all from one basic string trimmer.

After using the string trimmer to control weeds before mowing your lawn, simply connect the edger attachment to give your yard that finished look. The blower or blower/vac attachment can then remove all debris quickly. Other TrimmerPlus attachments include a tree pruner, hedge trimmer and even a cultivator. Attachments simply click into place in seconds, with no tools required.

“The versatility, not to mention convenience, of TrimmerPlus makes it a must-have tool,” Walheim said. “With TrimmerPlus, you can be edging your lawn and in a few seconds and a quick click, be pruning trees, trimming hedges or cultivating flowerbeds. TrimmerPlus is an ‘eight-jobs-in-one-tool’ piece of power equipment.”

Let It Ride

Historically, farmers used lawn and garden tractors to work tracts of grassy farmland. As many of these rolling meadows have given way to suburban yards, technological advancements have trans-

formed these hard-working tractors into affordable consumer units packed with industrial-strength innovations.

Cub Cadet’s new 1515 tractor is one of these workhorses. Designed to give suburban homeowners a premium tractor that is durable yet comfortable, the 1515 has many of the features of Cub Cadet’s larger units.

“The new 1515 boasts a premium Kohler engine and an exclusive heavy-duty transmission. These features give the 1515 a smoother ride, more power and a car-like driving feel,” Walheim said. “The on-board cup holder, deluxe seat and soft-touch steering wheel also means you’ll be cutting in comfort.”

Step Up To Serious Gardening

For serious gardeners who want big results from even the smallest area, the compact Troy-Bilt Super Bronco tiller busts sod, prepares seedbeds and performs light landscaping chores with ease. The Super Bronco’s cast iron and bronze gear driven transmission provides durability and heavy-duty performance for a lifetime of gardening. Patented JUST ONE HAND design lets you guide the tiller with literally one hand.

“Serious gardeners will appreciate the Super Bronco’s 16” tilling width. It fits beautifully between rows for easy, season-long cultivating and the power reverse feature can quickly back you out of tight spots,” Walheim said.

All of Walheim’s top product picks have Web sites. For more information, visit: www.cubcadet.com; www.yardman.com; www.troybilt.com or www.trimmerplus.com.